

MAY 16 1952

1534

Many **MEMBERS**

One **BODY**



International Missionary Council

156 Fifth Avenue

New York 10, N. Y.



FACTS WHICH EVERY CHURCH MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

Do you know . . .

THAT over 300 non-Roman missionary societies and boards in the Western Hemisphere are sending approximately 25,000 men and women as emissaries to lands where two-thirds of the world's population live.

THAT most of these missionary bodies are linked together with the younger churches in mission lands in cooperative study, planning and action through a world organization known as the International Missionary Council.

THAT the modern movement for Christian unity had its beginnings in this missionary movement, has been nurtured by it for fifty years, and still finds a most powerful stimulus in the World Mission of the Christian Church.

THAT the ecumenical movement now finds major organized expression in two world bodies:



*Left: Dr. S. C. Leung, China
Vice Chairman, I.M.C.*

*Right: Dr. John Mackay, U.S.A.
Chairman, I.M.C.*

Left: Dr. A. M. Sherman
U.S.A.

Center: Mrs. A. M. Sherman
U.S.A.
Vice Chairman, I.M.C.

Right: Rev. Rodolfo Anders
Brazil



- THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, established in 1948, which links together member churches throughout the world in a fellowship which transcends national and ecclesiastical barriers.
- THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL, established in 1921, for the primary purpose of furthering cooperation on a world scale in the proclamation of the Gospel to all men.

THAT these two autonomous world bodies work “in association with” one another.

THAT the I.M.C., while not carrying on direct mission work on the field, undertakes important cooperative enterprises which are committed to it by its thirty-two national constituent bodies:

- To meet emergency situations arising in mission lands.
- To advance the Christian mission in critical areas of work when needed.
- To conduct scholarly research under the direction of competent experts, in the social and economic environment of the younger churches, and in the expansion of Christianity.

THAT through such joint study, planning and cooperative action, much wasteful overlapping and competition is eliminated on the mission field.



WE ARE MANY MEMBERS BUT ONE BODY"

The missionary imperative

The missionary obligation of the Christian Church springs out of the very nature of the Christian Gospel itself. If it is the Gospel of God it must be for the whole world. In obedience to the Great Commission, "go ye into all the world," its full truth is discovered. It is no accident, then, that where the Church advances on the world's frontiers, the essential unity given by Christ is most vividly becoming a reality today.

Towards one world

Men talk and dream of one world. But deep seated emotions from our historic past hold us back from the unity which we crave, and we are still divided. In the meantime a mighty political force—communism—has declared itself the bearer of world solidarity. And it is winning the allegiance of many in Asia and Africa.

The great new fact

Christianity claims in its Gospel the one way to unity for all mankind. And the one over-riding hope in today's distraught world lies in the great new fact that there is a world wide fellowship of Christians. The divided churches are responding to the word of Christ, and are finding ways of presenting the Gospel to the world in new accents of unity and fellowship. These are signs that fire the imagination and bring new hope for the proclamation of a Gospel which gives reality, not to uniformity, but to the essential unity among all the churches. "We are many members, but one body."

The things which unite

The International Missionary Council is demonstrating in a practical fashion, at a level where the man in the pew can understand, that the things which unite are more important than the things which

divide. Its program is a notable illustration of the fact that Christians can act together as well as talk, and do so in spite of differences. It has taken the initiative for the past thirty years in bringing Christians of many races, cultures and traditions physically, mentally and spiritually together. It has done so, dramatically, on a large scale in the great world missionary conferences, each of them a landmark in the advance of the modern missionary movement. It has done so, more significantly, in the formation of National Missionary Conferences in western countries and of National Christian Councils within particular countries in mission lands, linking them in a world fellowship.

**Foci of
ecumenical
life**

The constant flow of ideas and information from church and mission centers in all parts of the world; the contacts in work with mission leaders from all the churches; the travel of the staff to many fields far and near, together make the I.M.C. headquarters located in London and New York pulsating centers of ecumenical life. The exchange of ideas; the planning of policies and programs; the clearances for and the conduct of cooperative enterprises, and the untangling of knotty problems of mission comity, combine to lay upon the officers of the I.M.C. tasks which tax to the utmost human capacity. But achievements in unity and mission, as they unfold, must be attributed to the divine power which is working through these human instruments and hosts of others being drawn into this fellowship.

**Special
projects**

Here presented are some of the more important of the I.M.C.'s current undertakings, all designed to meet needs which have emerged from crucial situations in various parts of the world. These are committed to the Council and accepted only after wide consultation and the approval of constituent bodies. They are being vigorously pursued in the faith that the necessary financial resources will be provided by those who want to see such measures of united action among the churches carried to fruition in a task more far reaching, more urgent, and more significant than any confronting His Church in its whole history.



HAT THE I. M. C. IS DOING NOW

I. To meet the challenge of organized anti-Christian movements

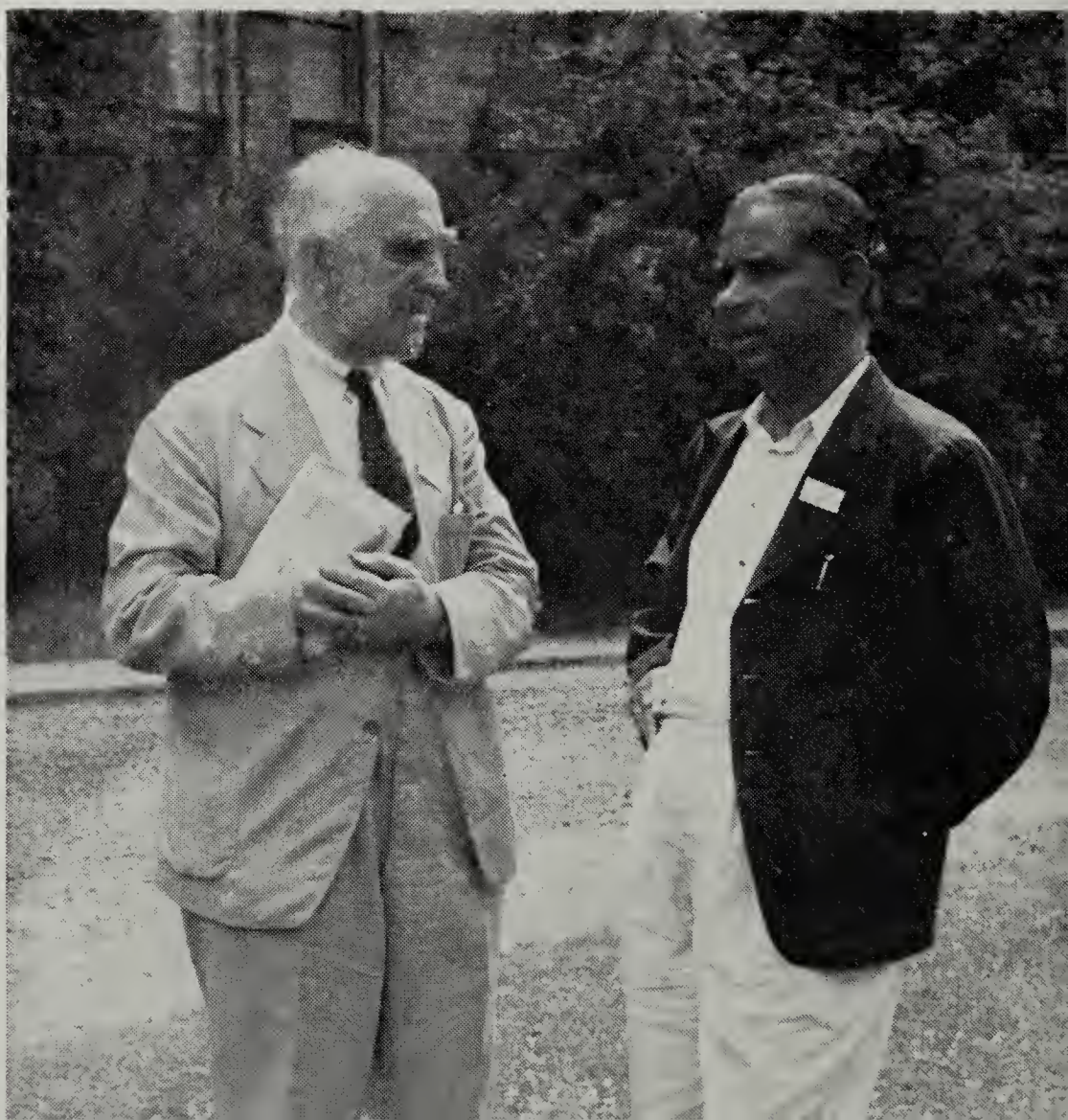
Christianity now faces its greatest challenge since the days of the early martyrs. The work of the Christian Church—its very right to exist—is threatened by communism and other organized forces in large areas. The International Missionary Council is sending some of the most capable leaders available to the Far and Near East, to Europe and Latin America for consultations with national leaders of the churches. They help to develop a strategy which will deal realistically with these threats and assure a continuing witness to the Christian Faith. It is stimulating study, sending appropriate literature and initiating processes for the indigenous production of literature on the field.

II. To study anew the Missionary Obligation of the Church

Radical changes in the world today are demanding a reappraisal of the whole missionary enterprise of the Church.

Left: Rev. A. M. Chirgwin
England

Right: Prof. D. G. Moses
India
Vice Chairman, I.M.C.





Left: Rev. Baez-Camargo
Mexico
Vice Chairman, I.M.C.

Center: Rev. L. S. Albright
Canada

Right: Rev. Roman Torres
Mexico

The spread of nationalism, the impact of communism and fascism and the stirrings among the depressed peoples, as well as the changes imposed upon the structure of missions itself in great areas, all challenge the Christian forces of the world to a deep probing of missionary message and method, of life and work. This urgent need is generally accepted by leaders of the movement everywhere. The I.M.C. has, therefore, summoned its constituencies in all countries to a comprehensive rethinking of the missionary enterprise in all its aspects, beginning with first principles.

This basic study is now proceeding with national commissions and smaller groups at work in many countries. It will come to a focus at Willingen, Germany, in a representative world conference to be held July 5–21, 1952. This working conference of nearly two hundred key persons will not be the terminus of the Study, but will undoubtedly crystallize important findings which may be immediately applicable, and clarify other areas of study which must be pursued to further conclusions.



Left: Rev. S. Tuilovini
Fiji Islands

Right: Mr. Lawrence MacGregor
U.S.A.
Treasurer, I.M.C.

III. To provide indigenous leadership for the cooperative work of the churches of East Asia

The rising spirit of national and racial independence in Eastern countries, coupled with the trend towards the transfer of authority and control from foreign missions to the younger churches, led the I.M.C. to establish, jointly with the World Council of Churches, an East Asia office manned by an East Asian. Dr. Rajah B. Manikam, former executive of the National Christian Council of India and Pakistan, is now serving the two bodies most effectively in many capacities in that vast and troubled area.

IV. To work for the extension of religious freedom and of international justice and understanding

In order to bring the views and convictions of the churches of the World Christian Community effectively to the attention of inter-governmental bodies, the I.M.C. sponsors jointly with the W.C.C. the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. This agency serves as a medium for gathering information on relevant world issues and for their interpretation, more particularly to the United Nations through UN subsidiary agencies. An effective system of communication operates in seventy countries through contacts with 350 constituents of the parent bodies. The results of its work can be clearly seen in important lines of action taken by the United Nations.



HAT THE I. M. C. PLANS IN ADDITION FOR 1952—1953

I. To promote Christian standards of home and family life in the Far and Near East

Low standards of home and family life present serious problems in the countries of the Far and Near East, as in other parts of the world. But there they are more acute because of rapid changes in the social environment which undermine the old moralities. Eminently successful cooperative pilot-projects were conducted in 1950, sponsored by the I.M.C. on a national scale through the churches, in Japan and the Philippines.

Pressing invitations coming from other National Christian Councils have led the I.M.C. to plan for the extension of this work to Burma, Malaya, and Thailand beginning in 1952, and to other areas later. The importance of this work to the place of women and to the life of youth, in the home and in society, can hardly be overstated.

II. To help raise the standards of theological training and increase the numbers and quality of the ministry in the African churches

A crucial problem is faced by the African Churches as large numbers of the population now accepting Christianity confront them with unparalleled opportunities. At the same time the African Churches are woefully unprepared, with a ministry inadequate in numbers, in education and theological training, to meet this challenge. The need can be met only by cooperatively developing a comprehensive plan in which all churches and missions participate.

At the call of the churches in tropical Africa, the I.M.C. has responded with a plan for a survey of the training for the min-

istry in those large areas. It is being undertaken in three stages. The first was carried out in British Africa by Bishop Stephen C. Neill, loaned to the I.M.C. by the World Council of Churches. The second stage, more extensive than the first, is proposed for 1953 in the territories controlled by France, Belgium and Portugal, and in Ethiopia and Liberia. The third stage will be a survey in Southern Africa conducted by Rev. Charles W. Ranson, General Secretary of the International Missionary Council, the Rev. Eric Nielsen, and an African colleague, beginning in the autumn of 1952, or the spring of 1953.

III. To discover the basic factors and their implications in the impact of western civilization on African tribal life with respect to marriage customs

The I.M.C. has shared with the International African Institute in a study in which attention is being focused on that central institution of African society, the polygamous marriage system. It has been likened to the hub of a wheel since nearly every activity and interest of the community are either directly or indirectly related to it.

The divergence of laws dealing with marriage customs adopted by colonial governments, and the wide varieties of policies and disciplines of the churches have led to great confusion which hampers the efforts of all agencies working for the welfare of the African people. These facts led the I.M.C. in cooperation with the colonial governments, the African churches and the International African Institute to undertake a monumental research, international in scope, to deal with the problems of African marriage customs.



Left: Rev. I. M. Mokitimi
South Africa

Center: Rev. R. O. C. King
British West Africa

Right: Rev. C. G. Baeta
Gold Coast Africa
Vice Chairman, I.M.C.



OW THE WORK OF THE I. M. C. IS FINANCED

The basic budget It is the policy of the Council that its basic annual budget of \$111,462 should be fully subscribed by its constituent national organizations. This obligation is generally accepted, and in spite of the extremely limited resources of many of these bodies, two-thirds of this budget is being provided by them. This leaves an amount of \$29,212 to be secured in 1952, and also in 1953, from private sources.

Special projects The basic budget of the Council does not cover some of its more essential undertakings in special projects. Much of its most fruitful and creative work has been financed by special funds raised independently of its regular budget. These tasks are pressing for action. A special fund of \$150,000 is urgently required during 1952 and 1953 to meet these critical needs.

The treasurer of the I.M.C. is authorized by the Council, with the approval of constituent groups, to receive gifts from those who believe in and wish to thus further the cause of cooperation in the world mission of the churches.

Gifts and inquiries may be sent to:

LAWRENCE J. MACGREGOR, Treasurer
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

All pictures in this booklet are of persons related to recent I.M.C. events.

OFFICERS
of the
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL

Chairman

THE REV. DR. JOHN A. MACKAY

Chairman Emeritus

DR. JOHN R. MOTT

Vice Chairmen

PROF. G. BAEZ-CAMARGO,
Mexico

DR. S. C. LEUNG, China

DR. DAVID G. MOSES, India

MRS. ARTHUR M. SHERMAN,
U.S.A.

MISS ELEANOR RIVETT, Australia

THE REV. C. G. BAETA, Africa

DR. HENDRICK KRAEMER,
Holland

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER,
United Kingdom

General Secretary—THE REV. C. W. RANSON

Secretaries—THE REV. DR. J. W. DECKER

THE REV. DR. NORMAN GOODALL, London

DR. GLORA M. WYSNER

East Asia Secretary—THE REV. DR. RAJAH B. MANIKAM, Singapore
Jointly with the World Council of Churches

Research Secretary—THE REV. ERIK W. NIELSEN, London

Secretary for Survey—MR. E. J. BINGLE, London

Treasurer—MR. LAWRENCE J. MACGREGOR

Director of Promotion and Public Relations, New York Office—
MR. ORRIN R. MAGILL

NEW YORK: 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

LONDON: Edinburgh House, 2 Eaton Gate, London, S.W. 1, England.